

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 CIAE-00
INR-07 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07
DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 EA-09 PM-05 /106 W
-----079436 261130Z /15

R 261057Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0079
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
ERDA WASHDC
ERDA GERMANTOWN

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 12204

DEPT PASS NRC

USOECN, USEEC, USIAEA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, GW
SUBJECT: GERMAN INDUSTRIAL REPRESENTATIVES COMMENT
ON URANIUM SUPPLY FOR FRG

1. SUMMARY: IN SEPARATE NEWSPAPER INTERVIEWS TWO
LEADING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GERMAN NUCLEAR INDUSTRY
COMMENTED ON THE NATURAL URANIUM SUPPLY FOR THE FRG.
ONE SAID THAT CURRENT DIFFICULTIES IN THE DELIVERY
OF FOREIGN NATURAL URANIUM TO GERMANY WOULD NOT
SERIOUSLY AFFECT GERMAN NUCLEAR POWER PRODUCTION
WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. THE OTHER PROPOSED A
NATIONAL NATURAL URANIUM STOCKPILE THAT WOULD GUARAN-
TEE A SAFE FUEL SUPPLY FOR ALL GERMAN REACTORS FOR A
PERIOD OF TWO YEARS. END SUMMARY.

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2. ON JULY 20 DR. VON KIENLIN, MANAGING DIRECTOR
OF THE GERMAN URANIUM PROSPECTING COMPANY URANGESELL-
SCHAFT GMBH, EXPLAINED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
COULD TAKE A STRONG STAND IN THE UPCOMING CONSULTA-
TIONS WITH THE SUPPLIER NATIONS CANADA AND AUSTRALIA.
THERE WAS NO NEED FOR HASTE, HE SAID, BECAUSE THE

DELIVERY OF ALL NEEDED NUCLEAR FUEL WAS ASSURED BY CONTRACTS UNTIL 1981. HE CONTINUED THAT IT WOULD SUFFICE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT BY 1978/79, SINCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A URANIUM MILL TOOK ABOUT THREE TO FOUR YEARS AND WOULD THEREFORE BE READY WHEN NEEDED.

3. VON KIENLIN THEN SPECULATED ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF AN IMMEDIATE, TOTAL URANIUM EMBARGO AND SAID THAT EVEN IN SUCH A HIGHLY UNLIKELY CASE EXISTING STOCKPILES WOULD ENSURE THE OPERATION OF ALL GERMAN REACTORS UNTIL 1979. HE ANNOUNCED THAT 419 TONS OF LOW-ENRICHED URANIUM STOCKPILED BY THE GERMAN COMPANY NUKEM, WOULD ALONE BE ABLE TO SUSTAIN GERMAN REACTORS AT A LEVEL OF 12,800 EMW UNTIL 1980.

4. VON KIENLIN CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT SEVERAL MEASURES HAD TO BE UNDERTAKEN TO ASSURE THE URANIUM SUPPLY IN THE 1980'S. FIRST, FUNCTIONING POLITICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN SUPPLIER AND CUSTOMER NATIONS HAD TO BE ESTABLISHED ON A MULTI- AND BILATERAL BASIS. THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY INCLUDING URANIUM CONTRACTS IN GENERAL ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS AND ATTACHING THEM TO DEVELOPMENT AID PROGRAMS. SECOND, ONE SHOULD INCREASE PROSPECTING EFFORTS FOR NATURAL URANIUM BEYOND THE EXISTING SUPPLIER COUNTRIES IN

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ORDER TO DIVERSIFY THE URANIUM SOURCES. THIRD, THE

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INR-07 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07
DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 EA-09 PM-05 /106 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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ERDA WASHDC
ERDA GERMANTOWN

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD IMPROVE GUARANTEES OF
FOREIGN INVESTMENTS BY GERMAN URANIUM COMPANIES.
FOURTH, THE STOCKPILES OF NATURAL AND ENRICHED
URANIUM SHOULD BE INCREASED PARALLEL TO THE GROWTH
OF NUCLEAR POWER CAPACITY IN THE FRG.

5. ON JULY 21, THIS LATTER POINT WAS PICKED UP BY
PROFESSOR MANDEL, CHAIRMAN OF GERMANY'S LARGEST
ELECTRIC UTILITY (RWE), WHO CALLED FOR A FEDERAL
NATURAL URANIUM RESERVE SIMILAR TO THE NATIONAL
RESERVES IN COAL AND CRUDE OIL. MANDEL EXPLAINED
THAT SUCH A DEPOSIT SHOULD GUARANTEE THE SAFE SUPPLY
OF 20,000 EMW NUCLEAR CAPACITY, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE
4,800 TONS OF URANIUM AT A PRICE OF ROUGHLY DM ONE
BILLION. HE STATED THAT THE ELECTRIC UTILITIES
COULD PROVIDE THIS MONEY ON THEIR OWN, BUT THEY WOULD
BE DEPENDENT ON THE POLITICAL ASSISTANCE OF THE
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GOVERNMENT IN ACQUIRING THE URANIUM. MANDEL, HOWEVER,
DID NOT DISCLOSE WHO THE SUPPLIER NATIONS FOR THIS
URANIUM WOULD BE, WHICH IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE CRU-
CIAL POINT IN ALL OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS. HE
ANNOUNCED THAT HIS TALKS IN CANADA HAD SHOWN THAT THE
CANADIANS WILL SUPPLY ONLY FUEL FOR IMMEDIATE NEEDS
IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS.
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Sent Date: 26-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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